

REMARKS

Claims 12 and 13 have been examined. Claims 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Preliminary Matters

As noted on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner confirmed that claims 1-11 were canceled and claims 12 and 13 are the only claims pending in the above-identified Application.

The Examiner has objected to the title as not being descriptive of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the title, in accordance to the Examiner's suggestion, and submits that the title should not be construed to limit the scope of the claims.

The Examiner has objected to the specification because the related application has matured into a patent. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the specification in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

The Examiner has also objected to the Abstract since it does not sufficiently describe the claimed apparatus for manufacturing a wire harness. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the Abstract.

Further, the Examiner has objected to claim 13 due to minor informalities. Applicant has amended claim 13 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner maintains that it is unclear as to whether “a single wire harness from the partial harness” (claim 12, line 4) is the same as the “wire harness” in the preamble. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 12 to include the term “single” into the preamble of the claim for clarification purposes. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,052,449 to Fukuda et al (“Fukuda”).

Applicant submits that claim 12 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 12 recites a first connector receiving jig configured to detachably hold a plurality of proper connectors and a second receiving jig configured to detachably hold a plurality of hybrid connectors.

Applicant submits that Fukuda fails to teach or suggest the above features. In particular, the Examiner acknowledges that Fukuda fails to disclose that fixing jigs 24 are for a specific proper or hybrid connector. Rather, the Examiner contends that connectors 16 of Fukuda broadly read on the plurality of connectors in claim 12. However, claim 12, recites two types of

connectors and a first and second connector receiving jig which are configured to detachably hold one of either the proper or hybrid connectors. As stated in Fukuda, wires 2 are press-connected to connectors 16 to make a wire harness forming unit A (Figs. 1A, 1B; col. 5, lines 64-67). The connectors 16 are securely mounted on connector fixing jigs 24 (Fig. 5A, 5B; col. 6, lines 59-65). There is no disclosure as to more than one type of connector 16, nor does the reference refer to a first and second type of connector fixing jig 24, which are each configured to detachably hold a plurality of proper or hybrid connectors.

Accordingly, since Fukuda fails to teach or disclose each and every feature recited in claim 12, Applicant submits that claim 12 is patentable over the cited reference.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant Admitted Prior Art (“APA”) (Figs. 13 and 14; Discussion under “Related Art”, pgs. 1-5).

Applicant submits that claim 12 is patentable over the APA. In particular, the Examiner maintains that setting table 106 of the APA discloses the claimed connector receiving jig. However, setting table 106 fails to teach or disclose a first and second connector receiving jig, where the first connector receiving jig is configured to hold a plurality of proper connectors and the second connector receiving jig is configured to hold a plurality of hybrid connectors, as recited in claim 12.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 12 is patentable over the APA, and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda or the APA in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,269,538 to Takada ("Takada").

A. Rejection in view of Fukuda

Since claim 13 is dependent upon claim 12, and Fukuda fails to teach each and every feature as recited in claim 12, Applicant submits that claim 13 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

B. Rejection in view of APA and Takada

Since claim 13 is dependent upon claim 12, and Takada fails to cure the deficient teachings of the APA, Applicant submits that claim 13 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Newly Added Claims

Applicant has added claims 14-18 to provide more varied protection for the present invention.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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